

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS ADVISORY GROUP

REF: 77 STATE 216925

1. VON BAECKMANN, DIRECTOR, IAEA SAFEGUARDS DIVISION
OF DEVELOPMENT, HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON
IAEA PLANS FOR MEETINGS ON SAFEGUARDS FOR ENRICHMENT
PLANTS. THE MARCH 1977 ADVISORY GROUP IN TOKYO
ADDRESSED SAFEGUARDS FOR GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT
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PLANTS SUCH AS ALMO

PLANT. ACCORDING TO VON
BAECKMANN, THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN ALMELO ARE
PRESSING THE AGENCY TO HAVE AN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
TO ADDRESS OTHER TYPES OF ENRICHMENT PLANTS AND, IN
PARTICULAR, DIFFUSION PLANT. THIS MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY
INTENDED FOR LATE 1977. USG SUGGESTED DEFERRAL TO APRIL

1978 (PARA 4 REFTEL). ACCORDING TO VON BAECKMANN, THE AGENCY, BECAUSE OF HEAVY SCHEDULE OF OTHER SAFEGUARDS MEETINGS, HAS HAD TO POSTPONE THE MEETING AND NOW PROPOSES TO HAVE IT DURING THE WEEK OF 27 NOVEMBER 1978. VON BAECKMANN EXPECTS TO HAVE A CONSULTANTS' MEETING IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER TO HELP THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE THEIR FINAL WORKING PAPER FOR THE ADVISORY GROUP.

2. AS NOTED PARA 3 REFTEL, USG WAS NOT READY AT TIME OF CONSULTANTS' MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1977 TO PROVIDE INPUT FOR A SECRETARIAT WORKING PAPER, BUT BELIEVED SOMETHING COULD BE READY BY JANUARY, 1978. VON BAECKMANN URGES THAT THESE INPUTS BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VON BAECKMANN, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE PRINCIPAL IAEA ACTION OFFICER FOR NOVEMBER MEETING, IS AWARE OF EXISTENCE OF RECENT UNION CARBIDE REPORTS RELATED TO SAFEGUARDING ISOTOPE SEPARATION PLANTS. IF INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES BELIEVE THAT UNCLASSIFIED VERSIONS OR SUMMARIES OF THESE REPORTS COULD BE OF HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE

IAEA SAFEGUARDS, PLEASE SEND THEM TO MISSION.

3. AT THE SEPTEMBER, 1977 MEETING, THE FRENCH PROPOSED A SAFEGUARDS APPROACH FOR THEIR NEW GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT. B. RICH, DOE, ATTENDED MEETING AND HAS RELEVANT PAPERS AND NOTES RE FRENCH PROPOSAL. VON BAECKMANN CLAIMS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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FRENCH PROPOSAL IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH INFCIRC/153 BECAUSE OF THE VERY LARGE IN-PLANT INVENTORY WHICH, UNDER FRENCH PROPOSAL, WOULD NEVER BE SUBJECT TO AGENCY VERIFICATION. ALSO NO VERIFICATION OF TAILS QUANTITY OR ASSAY WAS ALLOWED IN FRENCH PROPOSAL, WHICH COULD LEAD TO A CLANDESTINE ENRICHED URANIUM INVENTORY BUILDUP. BECAUSE OF THIS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, VON BAECKMANN IS RELUCTANT TO INCLUDE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IN THE NOVEMBER '78 MEETING AGENDA UNLESS HE SHOULD HAVE SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE BASIC ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH APPROACH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US AND OTHERS. HE DOES NOT WANT THE MEETING TO BE CONSUMED BY THE PROS AND CONS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTS, IN FACT, THAT THE US AND FRENCH SHOULD CONSULT BILATERALLY AND REACH AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

4. THE SCOPE OF THE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING WOULD LIKELY BE SAFEGUARDS FOR LARGE ENRICHMENT PLANTS WITH EMPHASIS ON GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS, BUT VON BAECKMANN IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE SCOPE TO COVER OTHER TYPES OF LARGE PLANTS WHERE THERE ARE LARGE IN-PLANT INVENTORIES, AND MATERIAL ACCOUNTANCY ERRORS

ARE LARGE. IN THE MISSION'S VIEW, THE PROBLEMS OF LARGE ENRICHMENT PLANTS ARE LIKELY TO BE QUITE ENOUGH FOR THE GROUP TO TRY TO COPE WITH WITHOUT SUCH AN EXPANSION. LOVETT ALSO WANTS TO ASSURE THAT THE ROLE OF CONTAINMENT AND SURVEILLANCE TO DEAL WITH SITUATIONS WHERE THE POSSIBLE ACCOUNTANCY MEASURES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT IS ADEQUATELY COVERED AT THE MEETING.

5. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON WHEN US INPUTS FOR SECRETARIAT WORKING PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE; WHETHER SOME VERSION OF UNION CARBIDE REPORTS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE; VIEWS ON THE GENERAL ACCEPTABILITY OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL; WHETHER THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH THE FRENCH; AND US VIEWS ON THE IDEA OF EXPANDING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SCOPE TF THE ADVISORY GROUP TO INCLUDE PLANTS OTHER THAN ENRICHMENT PLANTS. STONE UNQTE VANCE

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